

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview to Applicant's representative on July 11, 2005.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 2-9, 11-22, 24-28, 30-32 and 34-35 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Shimizu et al (EP '423, hereinafter "Shimizu") in view of Schofield et al (U.S. '989, hereinafter "Schofield"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to still pending claims 2-9, 11-22, 24-28, 30-32 and 34 as well as new claim 35.

New claim 35 recites "a relationship between said malfunction information and said selected condition of one of said plurality of malfunction-information storing objects being different from that of another one of said plurality of malfunction-information storing objects." This feature of claim 35 is supported by, for example, FIG. 5 of the application and corresponding written description. For example, in the first malfunction-information storing object 310, the temporarily abnormal information (i.e., "TEMP. ABNORM.") is paired with condition "OFF" of the MIL. In the second malfunction-information storing object 320, the temporarily abnormal information is paired with condition "ON" of the MIL. Thus, the relationship between the malfunction information and the selected condition of the first-malfunction information storing object 310 is different from that of the second-malfunction information storing object 320.

The combination of Schofield and Shimizu fails to teach or suggest the above described feature of new claim 35. Similar (but necessarily identical) comments apply to independent claims 7, 11, 14, 20 and 24.

New claim 35 was presented and discussed during the July 11, 2005 interview. The resulting Interview Summary states, *inter alia*, "The draft claim presented was discussed and the examiner stated that the currently cited prior art did not appear to disclose (sic) all of the limitations. The examiner will fully consider the draft claim when the claim is formally presented." By this Amendment, claim 35 has been formally presented. Applicant notes, however, that minor editorial revisions have been made to new claim 35 presented herein with respect to the claim discussed during the interview.

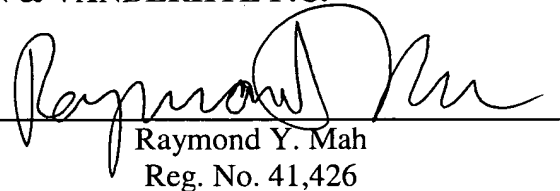
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100